

## Today's News - Tuesday, November 19, 2013

- It's Tate Britain's day! Bevan finds Caruso St John's "sublime reworking" sews the building's history "back together with the most elegant of stitches to create a national gallery that doesn't look like it got dressed in the dark."
- Wainwright says the "revamp brings pizzazz and mischief," and "adds the whimsy of architectural magpies" and "exuberant flourishes."
- Heathcote cheers the "clean, calm and bright scheme of clarity and intelligence."
- Russell roams the Kimbell's Piano Pavilion with its "predictable, restrained elegance" and large galleries that "trade the intimacy of the Kahn for a severe magnificence."
- REX and Front come up with a 400-foot-tall solution to the Nasher's scorching problem in Dallas that is itself a kinetic piece of art (umbrellas that "blossom" included!).
- The mystery of the Google barge being assembled in San Francisco is solved (sort of).
- Wright sees the barge as the "future of mobile retail" and "a way to subvert the idea of the store. As a business model, it (probably) won't take over the world but I hope it comes around and visits my city, if only for a little while."
- Florida parses an "intriguing new study" that appears to prove "the most cohesive neighborhoods are almost never the most diverse ones."
- Hume catches up with Safdie for an enlightening (and amusing) visit: "He may not be your average starchitect, but he is a man who has a place in the world and enjoys it."
- Winners and could-be winners all: Rogers Stirk Harbour beats out "a raft of top names" to design the LSE's new Global Centre for Social Sciences.
- Beha beats "a very talented shortlist" for a major rehab of the U.S. Embassy in Athens.
- Eyefuls of a most impressive shortlist to design the Nobel Prize HQ in Stockholm (images remain "anonymous" - try matching the names with the pix).
- Another very talented shortlist hopes for the chance to revamp Stirling's "controversial" 40-year-old Florey Building; the challenge is to "overcome problems of comfort and use."
- NYC's Battery Park users will be in for a treat no matter which of 5 (very cool!) shortlisted "Draw Up A Chair" designs come out on top.
- Eyefuls of winners from Down Under in The Great Indoors 2013 and 2013 Interior Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) competitions.
- One we couldn't resist: a new app lets you customize London Tube alerts: "Please be aware that the new Die Hard move is being filmed here today. Be alert for fireballs, floods, and bad acting" (they're all a hoot!).
- Call for entries: RFQ to green the streets surrounding ASLA's HQ in Washington, DC + 2014 European Prize for Urban Public Space.

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Tate Britain refurbishment by Caruso St John Architects: ...a sensitive interplay of blendings and reconnections...shine through the visual jumble of past interventions...sublime reworking of the Millbank entrance...first task was to unpick the building's history before sewing it back together with the most elegant of stitches to create a national gallery that doesn't look like it got dressed in the dark. By Robert Bevan [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Tate Britain revamp brings pizzazz and mischief to a Victorian classic: Caruso St John's redesign of art gallery adds the whimsy of architectural magpies to a London stalwart...worked to bring a sense of coherence to the jumble -- but not without adding exuberant flourishes. By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Tate Britain's grand entrance: ...much of the meticulous restoration work is almost invisible...subtle interventions...simultaneously sympathetic and striking...Clean, calm and bright, it is a scheme of clarity and intelligence. By Edwin Heathcote -- Caruso St John- Financial Times (UK)

Kimbell Art Museum's \$135 Million Expansion Has Light, Needs Soul: ...a predictable, restrained elegance...There's no Oedipal face-off...The large galleries trade the intimacy of the Kahn for a severe magnificence and much more flexibility in arrangement... By James S. Russell -- Louis Kahn (1972); Renzo Piano [images]- Bloomberg News

An Unusual Proposal to Block Architectural 'Death Rays' in Dallas: It's 400 feet tall, and sunlight-responsive: ...a drawn-out battle between Renzo Piano's Nasher Sculpture Center and Museum Tower...REX and facade consultancy Front to explore a "third option" that would require no modification to either structure...umbrellas that "blossom" when glare reaches a certain intensity and retracts otherwise. [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Google barge mystery unfurled: ...the full package is envisioned to be an "unprecedented artistic structure"...By and Large...refers to the vessel as a "studio" and "temporary technology exhibit space." It says its goal is to "drive visitation to the waterfront." -- Gensler; LOT-EK [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

The Google Barge and the Future of Mobile Retail: ...a way to subvert the idea of the store just as food trucks subvert the idea of the restaurant. As a business model, it (probably) won't take over the world but I hope it comes around and visits my city, if only for a little while. By Norman Wright, AICP- PLANetizen

The Paradox of Diverse Communities: It turns out the most cohesive neighborhoods are almost never the most diverse ones. But does that mean we shouldn't fight against self-segregation? ...an intriguing new study, "The (In)compatibility of Diversity and Sense of Community"...develops a nifty agent-based computer model to test this question. By Richard Florida- The Atlantic Cities

Moshe Safdie: Global citizen: He may not be your average starchitect, but he is definitely an architect and certainly a star...can unquestionably claim his place in the pantheon of architectural greats, yet he has eschewed the sort of attention lavished upon contemporaries...He is a man who has a place in the world and enjoys it. By Christopher Hume- NUVO Magazine (Canada)

Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners wins delayed LSE's £90m Aldwych contest:

...has seen off a raft of top names to win the contest design The London School of Economics' new Global Centre for Social Sciences. -- Grafton Architects; Heneghan Peng; Hopkins Architects; OMA [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Design Team Selection Announced for Major Rehabilitation of the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece: Ann Beha Architects was selected from a very talented shortlist of four architecture/engineering teams... - U.S. Department of State

Proposals Unveiled For Nobel Prize Headquarters in Stockholm: The Nobel Foundation...has shortlisted 12 architecture firms -- 3XN; BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; Herzog & de Meuron; Johan Celsing Arkitektkontor; Lacaton & Vassal Architectes; Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter; Marcel Meili, Markus Peter Architekten; OMA; SANAA; Snøhetta; Wingårdhs arkitekter; David Chipperfield Architects [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Revealed: shortlist in contest to revamp James Stirling's controversial 1971 Florey Building: ...£19million revamp of the 40-year-old facility aims to 'overcome problems of comfort and use'. -- Avanti Architects; Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios; Hawkins\Brown Architects; John McAslan + Partners; Levitt Bernstein Associates; Nicholas Hare Architects [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

"Draw Up A Chair": The Battery Conservancy Americas Design Competition: The 5 Battery Chair Finalists...from U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Brazil -- Andrew Jones Design; Maria Camarena Design; Independent Design GroupAidan Jamison/Simon Kristak; Jason Bird; Davi Deusdara/Érica Martins/Tais Costa/Rafael Studart/Alencar Falcão [link to images, info] - The Battery Conservancy (NYC)

The Great Indoors 2013: "The Nature of Things" Winners: the best interiors from around the world. -- OHLAB/Oliver Hernaiz architecture lab; i29 interior architects; El Equipo Creativo; Churtichaga+Quadra-Salcedo Arquitectos [images] - Frame Publishers / Bureau Europa / Marres, Centre for Contemporary Culture

2013 Interior Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) winners: ...celebrates the best of Australian interior and product design... -- Tribe Studio; Woods Bagot; Breathe Architecture; McBride Charles Ryan; Smart Design Studio; BURNS; Group GSA; Sumu Design; Foolscape Studio; Jeff Copolov/Bates Smart; Enviro Studio; etc. [images] - Inside magazine (Australia)

Now You Can Fool Commuters With Customized London Tube Service Signs: "Please be aware that the new Die Hard movie is being filmed here today. Be alert for fireballs, floods, and bad acting." - The Atlantic Cities

Call for entries: Request for Qualifications/RFQ: Chinatown Green Street (international): greening the streets surrounding ASLA's headquarters in Washington, DC; deadline: January 15, 2014 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Call for entries: 2014 European Prize for Urban Public Space biennial competition to recognize and encourage the creation, recovery and improvement of public space; deadline: January 23 - Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCCB)



-- Álvaro Siza: Bouça Housing Complex (2004), Porto, Portugal  
-- Kisho Kurokawa (1934-2007): one of the most radical and productive thinkers in recent Japanese architecture...a founder of the Metabolist Movement  
-- Batlle i Roig Arquitectes: Funeral Home, Sant Joan Despí, Barcelona, Spain

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